THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) The Department of Personnel & Administrative Reforms undertook a study of the working of the Press Information Bureau in the year 1983-84 to streamline the organisational structure and functioning of the Headquarters and Regional/Branch offices of the Press Information Bureau. The study report is awaited.

(b) The Press Information Bureau continuously examines the question of effective publicity for the policies and activities of the Government The Bureau employs a variety of means—written material, Press Conferences, briefings and conducted tours—to disseminate information on Government policies and activities.

Coverage by AIR

1090. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to ensure hundred per cent coverage of the country's population by AIR; and

(b) the expenditure that is likely to be incurred and the number of transmitters that would have to be set up for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) and (b) After the implementation of the schemes included in the 6th Plan, the day time medium wave coverage in the country would extend to 95 per cent by population and 86 per cent of the area.

In its draft 7th Plan proposals, AIR has included schemes to increase the coverage to 97 per cent by population and 91 per cent by area. Implementation of the schemes will, however, depend on the final shape of the 7th Plan.

For 100 per cent radio coverage, AIR would in all require 350 transmitters of different power denominations in medium wave, F.M. and short wave. The present day estimation of expenditure on this account would approx. be Rs 1000 crores.

Railway wagons for movement of fertilisers

1091. SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI S. W. DHABE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the requirement of Railway wagons for movement of fertilisers in the year 1985-86;

(b) the number of wagons allotted by the Railways and what is the movement target; and

(c) what alternative steps Government proposed to take to complete the movement target, if wagons are not allotted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) It is not possible to give the exact number of wagons required for movement of fertiliser, as a combination of broad-gauge and metre-gauge wagons are involved in it. However, the approximate requirement is about 1200 broad-gauge and 500 metre-gauge

wagons per day to meet the annual movement requiremnt of about thirteen million tonnes of fertiliser during 1985-86.

(b) During April to June, 1985 the number of wagons made available for fertiliser loading worked out to approximately 940 broad gauge and 470 metre gauge or 0.98 million tonnes per month. The annual target has been fixed at 10.5 million tonnes by the Ministry of Railways after considering the indents from all sectors.

(c) In close coordination with the Railways, efforts are being made to maximise movement of fertilisers by rail, the balance being moved by road.

Formation of a new National Labour Policy

1092. SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI S. W. DHABE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a new National Labour Policy; and

(b) when was the earlier National Labour Policy formulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) and (b) A statement is attached.

Statement

The basic principles to be followed in our labour policy are already laid down in the Directive Principles of State Policy. These Principles have inspired our labour legislation from time to time. The Sixth Five year Plan made a review of the labour policy and set forth the objectives and strategy of the policy and programmes in the labour field.

The Approach Paper to the Seventh Five Year Plan, 1985-90 also provides, *inter alia* the need for reviewing the existing training programmes, training facilities in identified critical areas of shortage, provision of vocational and technical courses, formulation of a national wage policy, comprehensive legislation in respect of labour relations, possibility of organising labour welfare funds especially for the unorganised sector, streamlining the administrative machinery for implementing the minimum wages for agricultural workers and measures to be taken to strengthen the organisation and bargaining power of agricultural labour, efforts for rehabilitation of physically handicapped and need to identify the constraints affecting implementation of the legal provisions to protect the weaker sections like bonded labour, landless agricultural labour, migrant labour, construction labour and women labour.

Recently, a series of meetings have been held in the Ministry of labour on various issues concerning industrial relations, safety and health of workers, implementation of several labour laws and workers participation in management, etc. State Labour Ministers Conference was also convened in May, 1985 at which comprehensive agenda on various labour matters was discussed and certain agreed conclusions were reached. A sub-group of State Labour Ministers has also been constituted to consider some important issues which are proposed to be taken up before the Indian Labour Conference to be held in the near future (the last such Conference was held in 1971). After the Indian Labour Conference which is the national tripartite forum on which workers, employers, State and Central Governments are represented, the Government will be in a position to take a view on the changes